

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, independent claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended to clarify salient features of the cabled connector of the invention, dependent claims 2 and 3 have been amended to be consistent with the amended independent claim 1 from which they both depend and claim 4 has been cancelled. No new matter is presented.

Accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing specification amendments are respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

All of the original claims 1-6, herefore pending herein, are rejected in the subject Action.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 - 3, 5 and 6 remain pending.

Item 1: Objection to Claim 4

Claim 4 has been cancelled and the objection thereto thus is moot.

Item 4: Rejection of Claims 1 and 3 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for anticipation by Tsuji (USP 6,203,362)

Item 6: Rejection of Claims 2, 4 and 5 for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tsuji (USP'362) in view Orr Jr. et al.

Item 8: Rejection of Claim 6 for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by Tan et al.

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention as defined by the amended claims herein

The foregoing independent claims 1, 5 and 6 as now amended commonly recite first and second half covers which are combinable so that a cable guide is attached detachably thereto, with the first and second half covers having wall portions forming a cable exit hole when combined and a portion a cable guide is held between and engaged by the combined half covers. More particularly, with reference to Figures 10 and 11 and thus in a preferred embodiment, recesses 177 and 178 (FIG.10) and 197 and 198 (FIG.11) on the wall portions 176 and 196, respectively, of the first and second half covers 170 and 190 for holding the corresponding catching members 233 and 234 are provided at both lateral sides of the cable guide 220. The catching members 233 and 234 include arm portions extending laterally, and

catching claws, or hooks, 234a and 234b as well as catching claws, or hooks, 223b and 224b engage the foregoing recesses.

With this arrangement, the cable guide is held stably and firmly while minimizing the risk that there is formed a gap between the wall portion 176 and 196 at the time the first and second half covers 170 and 190 are engaged to form a cabled connector creating an associated problem of imperfect electromagnetic shielding.

Further, as set forth in page 18, lines 26-36 and FIG.18, the cabled connector of the present invention can provide excellent electromagnetic shielding at the space 241 formed by the foregoing recesses, even in the case the cable guide 220 is not attached.

(For the convenience of the Examiner, reference numerals are cited in the foregoing to facilitate the Examiner's identification and thereby recognition of the structural feature as illustrated in an illustrative preferred embodiment. The claims of course are not limited to those specific structures as disclosed in the identified figures.)

None of Tsuji, Tan et al., or Orr et al., teaches or suggests the foregoing feature of the present invention.

In Tsuji, the cable guide is held on the connector cover by the rib part 45 formed around the end part of the cable guide, and such a construction easily causes a problem that gaps between the first and second half covers are not closed completely and allow leakage of electromagnetic radiation.

Tan et al also shows a construction which may lead to imperfect closure of the gap between the first and second half covers.

Orr et al. is seemingly silent about any catching mechanism of the cable guide at the end part of the cabled connector.

Thus, even when Tsuji, Orr and Tan are combined, that the feature as set forth in amended claims is not derived.

It is respectfully submitted that prima facia obviousness has not been shown in support of the combination relied upon in item 6 of the action, the combination instead being justified solely on the unsubstantiated basis that it "would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify ..." Tsugi in accordance with the disclosure of Orr. (Action at page 3). MPEP 2144-2144.03

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the references of record and, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on Sept 19, 2004, 2004

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Date: Sept 19, 2004